**Current and Recent Events**

**On Top of the Agenda: Our Many Anti-Trafficking Activities**

The Third Regional Seminar took place from 19-22 May in Rome. More than 120 participants, among them government officials, representatives from non-governmental and international organisations from South-Eastern Europe, Italy and other European Union countries analysed the achievements and challenges encountered in the transnational referral of victims of trafficking. Practitioners from law enforcement agencies and NGOs presented their work on transnational cases, and discussion in the working groups focused on good practices, as well as identified gaps and outstanding challenges in the transnational practical work.

The TRM programme will continue for one more year, with the support of USAID. Thereby, a number of activities will further strengthen the transnational co-operation between relevant actors.

The TRM – EU project was launched during the Third TRM Regional Seminar. A kick-off meeting and the first project team meeting with 20 representatives of the partnering offices and organisations were held in Rome on 21 May.

ICMPD is partnering in this project, which is led by The Italian Department for Rights and Equal Opportunities. The overall objective is to develop a functioning, institutionalised TRM of trafficking victims between countries of origin and destination in order to get an effective EU-wide anti-trafficking response. More specifically to: develop a mechanism for comprehensive victim assistance; provide the missing link between countries of origin, transit and destination; and to exchange good practices for bilateral and multilateral co-operation. The project is funded by the EC Programme “Prevention of and fight against crime”.

Programme for the Enhancement of Anti-trafficking Responses in South-Eastern Europe: Data Collection and Information Management (DCIM)

The Final Regional Meeting in the context of the DCIM Programme took place on 14-15 April in Skopje, Macedonia and was co-hosted by the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI).

The data collection and information management project is currently funded by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was co-funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation until January 2008. Partners in this effort, along with ICMPD are Europol, MARRI and the Anti-Corruption and Anti-Trafficking Regional Organization Network (ACTA).

The Final Regional Meeting benefited from the active participation of more than 30 representatives from the South-Eastern European Region. Representatives of UNODC and IOM also attended the Meeting and provided valuable input.
June 2008 in Vienna means a lot of discussions about football and the European Championship. ICMPD staff members originate from nearly all countries participating in the games; hence we have many favourite teams in our organisation. For me, the championship visualises the fact that a functioning and successful team is more than the total of eleven brilliant players.

Bringing together people from different governmental and non-governmental organisations, administrations and countries, discussing common challenges and solutions, sharing views about strategies, policies and practises as well as providing support for the elaboration of action plans, monitoring and evaluation tools, these are activities of ICMPD as a service organisation. Some of them are highlighted in this Newsletter and demonstrate how we in ICMPD interpret notions such as government support, intergovernmental and interagency co-operation and customer orientation. We are aware that one cannot directly observe and measure international co-operation as such, but we are convinced that the effects of interagency and international teamwork can be quantified by numbers of e.g. victims effectively identified, protected and rehabilitated, numbers of perpetrators effectively recognised and convicted, dramatic reductions of waiting time at the borders, etc.

After two years of existence of our regular ICMPD Newsletter, we had a close look at our communication tool. A more informative and more reader friendly product was our goal. We hope that you appreciate the overhaul, which serves to better inform you about our concrete activities.

**AENEAS AMV seminar in Podgorica**

Within the framework of the AENEAS AMV project ‘Strong Institutions and a Unified Approach in the Asylum, Migration and Visa Management in the Western Balkans’ the third regional seminar was held in Podgorica, Montenegro 6-7 May 2008.

The seminar was opened by H.E. Mr. Milan Roćen, Foreign Minister of Montenegro; participating countries were Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

The objectives of the seminar were to present and discuss European best practices in the management of asylum, migration and visa, to further strengthen the common regional understanding of EU/Schengen acquis and to share best practices on implementation of the EU/Schengen acquis. Experts from project partner countries, Slovenia and the EC delegation to Montenegro gave presentations on issues identified as priorities within the beneficiary countries and reported on current state of play in the EU regarding each of the fields of asylum, migration and visa. Furthermore the Slovenian representative gave a presentation on the perspective of the Slovenian presidency in the Western Balkans.

The project, which is funded by the European Commission under the AENEAS 2005 budget line, is co-ordinated by the Swedish Migration Board, with ICMPD, the Danish Immigration Service and the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration as project partners.

**Misuse of Visa in Centre of new Research Project**

ICMPD is since February 2008 implementing the project „Misuse of visa and residence permits in the EU by students from the Western Balkans - A factual overview“ which is carried out on behalf of the King Baudouin Foundation in Brussels. This research project, which will be finalised in July 2008, aims at exploring the level of misuse of visa and residence permits by students from the Western Balkans in the European Union and at creating a comprehensive overview of the current situation in this area. The project was initiated within the general framework of the project “Smart Visa for Students from the Western Balkans” and is based on the identified need for reliable information in the area of misuse.
ONGOING PROJECTS

Ongoing Projects: Focusing on Ukraine’s Document Security

Strengthening capacities and cooperation in the identification of forged and falsified documents in Ukraine - 3 new activities

1) Together with the Hungarian National Police, ICMPD organised a study tour for Ukrainian officials under the EU 2005 AE-NEAS project to Budapest in February. It was designed to assist the members of the Working Group to implement the project’s trainings module. During the visit 10 representatives of Ukrainian authorities (Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Border Guard Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Security Service of Ukraine and the State Committee for Nationalities and Religions) visited the Hungarian National Police Headquarters, National Security Service Expert Institute, Adyliget Law Enforcement Training School (set up under the Ministry of Interior to provide professional training to policemen and border guards), Budapest Airport Police Directorate and Szeget Border Policing Office. Participants got first hand experience of international standards in the control of travel documents, witnessed the daily work of their Hungarian counterparts and familiarised themselves with EU Member State methods of training on three lines travel document control. Both sides of the study tour agreed to strengthen bilateral co-operation to combat illegal migration and to exchange information on elaboration of training materials and new modern training methods for the training course on travel document security.

2) The information exchange mechanism on forged and falsified travel documents in EU countries was the subject of a study visit to Amsterdam in March, under the guidance of ICMPD. The Royal Netherlands Marechaussee provided valuable information, guidance and training particularly in the areas of policies, procedures and standards in the control of travel documents and information exchange mechanisms. Due to the opportunity to learn about the Dutch methods of information exchange and maintenance of electronic databases on travel documents, this study tour will help the members of the Working Group on Information exchange to draft their own inter-agency agreement on information exchange and to prepare the Ukrainian electronic database.

3) ICMPD also organised a training course on document security for representatives of various agencies dealing with forged and falsified documents in Khmelnitsky, Ukraine, in May. During a 10-day training, border staff, police and security service officers were trained in detecting document fraud, use of special technical equipment, document verification and training methodology by experts from the Hungarian National Police. The training targeted national trainers who will train future document experts and trainers at the central level and in the regional offices of their related agencies. All participants were awarded certificates on the successful completion of the training. ICMPD, together with the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine is currently developing a series of pilot trainings on Travel Document Security to be conducted in summer/autumn 2008 by the national trainers who were trained in Khmelnitsky.
Ongoing Projects Continued: Western Balkans; MTM

Development of communication and information exchange systems on illegal migration in the Western Balkan region

Vienna Workshop
On 22 April representatives of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Frontex met in Vienna at ICMPD premises, to work on a MoU for a regional early warning and a regional information exchange system. These mechanisms will be established in the framework of the Aeneas programme. The draft MoU is currently under review and will be signed during a high-level meeting which is planned to take place in Budapest in July. The trial period for the information exchange system is foreseen to start in September.

CIREFI Meeting in Brussels
Together with the Hungarian Delegation ICMPD presented the Aeneas programme “Development of communication and information exchange systems on illegal migration in the Western Balkan region” at the CIREFI Meeting which took place on 29 April 2008 in Brussels. The presentation focused on the results achieved by the project so far, especially the Operational manuals on information exchange, early warning and risk analysis, which were developed for each beneficiary country and are currently in the process of being fine-tuned and adopted. In addition to that the planned regional early warning and information exchange systems on illegal migration were explained.

MTM project on the 2008 Interactive Map on Irregular Migration Routes and Flows in Africa, the Middle East and the Mediterranean Region (i-Map)

Meeting with partner agencies
In view of the official launching of the Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM) project on the 2008 Interactive Map on Irregular Migration Routes and Flows in Africa, the Middle East and the Mediterranean Region (i-Map), ICMPD hosted on April 8th at its Headquarters a meeting with the Partner Agencies involved. The current consortium is composed of Europol, Frontex, INTERPOL, UNODC and UNHCR.

Each Partner Agency is to provide expert input in their filed of competencies to ensure that the i-Map delivers high-quality analyses on irregular migration to the 37 Partner States of the MTM Dialogue. Moreover, it is foreseen that the Odysseus Academic Network will provide in-depth analyses on Arab Partner States’ legislations in the field of irregular migration.

On 29th May, the Project Steering Committee of the i-Map met for the first time at ICMPD Headquarters. The Committee is composed of representatives from the donor countries as well as from the Partner Agencies. Current funding States are: The Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Poland, Cyprus and Malta. Rules for the implementation as well as the work plan were agreed upon. Moreover, participants discussed the future development of the i-Map, notably the application submitted under the EC Thematic Programme for Cooperation with Third Countries in the Areas of Migration and Asylum. The i-Map shall officially be put online during the month of June.

i-Map presented in Washington
Following an invitation from the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC), the i-Map concept was presented to a broad range of interested parties during an ICMPD visit to Washington D.C. on 8-9 May 2008. The main presentation gathered about 50 participants from various agencies of the Department of States, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice and the U.S. National Security Agency. Representative of Australia, Canada and New Zealand were also participating. Additional working meetings on the i-Map took place at the US Congress, USAID and the World Bank.
More on Anti-Trafficking; G-DISC ERIT Ukraine Meeting

Development of a comprehensive anti-trafficking response in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia

In the course of this project, which ICMPD is implementing in Partnership with the International Labour Organization, ICMPD conducted a workshop on data-collection concerning trafficking in human beings in Armenia. The workshop was attended by ministerial staff, law enforcement officials, NGO workers and workers from international organisations including representatives of the ILO, the OSCE and the UNDP. The aims of the workshop were: (i) To introduce relevant stakeholders to the ICMPD data collection software and the data collection experience in South East Europe; (ii) to identify the approach of the government and NGOs towards data collection (victim-centered approach or criminal justice system approach); (iii) to identify the repositories of both databases. Furthermore, the ‘Anti-Trafficking Training Guide for Judges and Prosecutors’ was introduced by ICMPD during a training for judges in Baku.

The project is funded by the European Union.

“Evaluation of Member States’ legislation and the situation concerning trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation” Study launched

On 1 April, the EU-funded project “Evaluation of Member States’ legislation and the situation concerning trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation”, with a duration of 11 months, was launched. The overall objective of this study is, in line with the EU Action Plan, to contribute to the improvement of knowledge on Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) in the EU. It will give a comprehensive overview of national legislations and their implementation as well as on identified patterns of THB for sexual exploitation in 17 selected EU Member States, namely Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Data will be gathered through desk research, expert interviews and questionnaires; and obstacles in law implementation, information gaps and externalities of current policies will be analysed. Paying special attention to legislations on flanking areas and their impact on THB for sexual exploitation, the study will suggest possible links between THB for sexual exploitation and policies, legislations and regulations of the respective countries.

For easier reference, the report will contain country fact sheets for each of the 17 selected countries, covering national legislation, the trafficking situation as well as victims’ and traffickers’ profiles.
NEW PROJECTS / NEW ICMPD PUBLICATIONS

Award for ICMPD; New Project Assists Capacity Building in Serbia; New DCIM Handbook

ICMPD Receives Award from International Border Police Conference

From the 25th to the 27th May 2008, the XVIth International Border Police Conference (IBPC) was held in Balatonalmádi, Hungary. Heads of Border Police from more than 40 countries and representatives from 16 international organisations participated in this year’s event. ICMPD was represented by Mr. Edward Geelen (Senior Migration Specialist) and Mr. Guy Schmit (Programme Manager) who provided the audience with an outline on ICMPD’s current and future border management activities, with a specific focus on Integrated Border Management (IBM) aspects.

Dr. József Bencze, National High Commissioner of the Hungarian Police and Chairman of the IBPC, on behalf of the IBPC’s plenary session, has awarded to ICMPD the “bronze level of the International Border Police Conference Star in recognition of the outstanding activity in promoting the success of the Conference over the years.”

New project launched: Interregional Co-operation Support Programme

In April 2008 the “Technical Assistance to the Programme Coordination and Management Unit (PCMCU) in the Ministry of Finance, Republic of Serbia” was launched, a 2-year project funded under the EU CARDS programme.

The technical assistance provided by the project consortium composed of Planet S.A., Sviluppo Globale - GEIE, SICI Dominus Enterprise ltd. and ICMPD is to support the Serbian PCMU and develop capacities for it to perform its assigned functions: to prepare and manage cross border co-operation programmes supported by EU funding.

The programme is expected to contribute to socio-economic development of selected municipalities and districts in Serbia eligible for support from cross border co-operation programmes and ensuring efficient and secure borders.

The Handbook was developed in the framework of the Programme for the Enhancement of Anti-trafficking Responses in South-Eastern Europe - Data Collection and Information Management. It contains a list of indicators for the collection of data on trafficking in human beings - both on the victim side and on the criminal justice side. These indicators have been developed in close co-operation with governmental partners and in consultation with international experts and representatives of international and non-governmental organisations.

Without sufficiently accurate data it is not possible to either gauge the extent or recognise the true nature of the trafficking problem and understand the complexity of the issues involved. Thus the Handbook aims to be a tool to support governmental agencies in the collection of concrete, reliable data on human trafficking as such data is an essential prerequisite for all effective programmes, interventions, policies and legislation. While in the context of this project the Handbook targets governments in South-Eastern Europe, its appeal is likely to be broader and may prove a helpful resource for anti-trafficking actors working with data collection and information management beyond the SEE region. The complete Handbook can be downloaded from the ICMPD website: www.icmpd.org

Photo: ICMPD Programme Manager Guy Schmit (left) accepted the award on behalf of the organisation.
The 15th meeting of the Budapest Group of Senior Officials was held in Trabzon, Turkey on 15 – 16 May 2008. The activities of the Budapest Process of 2007 and the proposed activities for 2008 were presented by the leading States and the Secretariat. Further to this, the budget was adopted by the participating States.

The representative of the Czech Republic presented the concept of the Ministerial Conference, to be organised by the Czech Republic during EU Presidency in spring 2009 and which will focus on the Eastern and South-Eastern dimension of migration in Europe, and will emphasise the following topical areas: fight against illegal migration, return and readmission of illegal migrants, promotion of well-managed labour migration, fostering the links between migration and development, and promotion of functioning integration policies. Bulgaria presented their intention to chair and to host the newly established Working Group for the Black Sea Region in November 2008 in Sofia.

The Budapest Working Group on Irregular Movements and Asylum held its tenth meeting, hosted and chaired by the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic, on 14-15 April 2008 in Prague. The topic defined by the Chair of the Working Group this year was “The Institute of Detention of Asylum Seekers and Accompanied Issues”. The meeting focused on the meeting focused on legal and practical aspects of regulation of detention from a general perspective as well as from that of several EU Member States and the European Commission. The presentation of the EC, which gave a comprehensive overview on the Green Paper on the Future Common European Asylum System, was of particular interest for the participants. Further to this, the relevant case law by the European Court of Human Rights was presented by an independent expert and a background paper based on a questionnaire was presented by ICMPD. The GDISC ERIT project on detention capacities was presented by the Czech and Ukrainian team-partners as a concrete example of good practical co-operation in the field of detention of asylum seekers.
ICMPD signs seat agreement with the Kingdom of Belgium

On 21 May 2008, ICMPD signed a seat agreement with the Kingdom of Belgium granting full diplomatic privileges and immunities. The signing of the agreement is another substantial step to establishing a full-fledged operational representation in Brussels. The seat agreement will greatly facilitate the pursuing of ICMPD’s mandate. Based on the agreement, the representation will be able to step up its activities. Besides liaising with ICMPD Member States and partners, the European Commission and its services, the European Parliament and other organisations, the representation will support the delivery of quality services. Furthermore, the representation will contribute to creating the organisation’s advanced strategic orientation and operational programming. This will contribute to further establishing ICMPD as one of the leading European migration organisations. For further information contact ICMPD-Brussels@icmpd.org.

The Brussels office will as of immediately also contribute to each issue of the Newsletter. Watch this space!

ICMPD at Ouagadougou experts meeting on illegal migration

The meeting of experts in the field of Cooperation on Irregular Migration Control was held on the 20th, 21th and 22nd of May 2008, in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). ICMPD was invited to give a presentation on the implementation of the EC concept of integrated border management (IBM) in its cooperation with non EU partner countries. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Burkina Faso and French authorities, with the collaboration of the International Iberoamerican Foundation of Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP), in order to prepare the 2nd Euro-African Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development which will be held on October 20th and 21st, 2008, in Paris.

The presentation focused in a first step on the thematic and geographic context in which border management has to take place today in most regions including Africa, experiences within the EU on border management and a presentation of the core features of the EC concept on IBM for the cooperation with non EU countries. The second part looked at concrete actions to be implemented, lessons learned and the added value of the approach especially within an African context.

The presentation as well as all information related to the meeting can be found at the following website: http://dialogueuroafricanmd.net/irregular_migration/

ICMPD INTERN

New Director for the Department of Intergovernmental Dialogues and Research

Michael Tschanz, who is a Swiss national, is a social anthropologist with over 20 years of international professional experience mainly in humanitarian affairs and migration. His employment record includes nine years with the International Organization for Migration (most recently working on IOM’s intergovernmental dialogues programme), four years with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and seven years with the International Committee of the Red Cross at various duty stations. We wish him all the best for this new challenge!